

DELAYED ANSWERS TO ORAL QUESTIONS

Hon. B. Alasdair Graham (Deputy Leader of the Government): Honourable senators, I have a number of delayed answers. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on March 21, 1994, by the Honourable Senator John Lynch-Staunton regarding the International Space Station Program: status of Canada's commitment. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on March 2, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Pat Carney regarding the automation of weather stations. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on March 22, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Duncan J. Jessiman regarding the disbandment of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on March 22, 1995, by the Honourable Senator A. Raynell Andreychuk regarding an inquiry into the activities of the Canadian Airborne Regiment. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 23, 1995, by the Honourable Gerald J. Comeau regarding the Federal-Provincial Strategic Highway Improvement Program. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 24, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Jean-Claude Rivest regarding gun control. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 24, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Lowell Murray regarding gun control legislation. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 24, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Ron Ghitter regarding gun control. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 24, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Gerry St. Germain regarding gun control. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 25, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Lowell Murray regarding federal-provincial agreements currently in force. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 25, 1995, by the Honourable Senator David Tkachuk regarding the Federal-Provincial Strategic Highway Improvement Program. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on May 25, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Ethel Cochrane regarding the decline in university applications. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on June 5, 1995, by the Honourable Senator John Buchanan regarding the Federal-Provincial Strategic Highway Improvement Program. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on June 5, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Pierre Claude Nolin regarding NATO, respect of human rights as a condition of continuing membership. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on June 6, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Richard J. Doyle regarding the refusal of airlines to negotiate discounts with the Government of Canada. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on June 7, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Fernand Roberge regarding the effect of the enforcement provision of agreement on internal trade implementation bill on interprovincial trade. I have a response to a question raised in the

Senate on June 21, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Gerald Comeau regarding proposed toll booths in Nova Scotia. I have a response to a question raised in the Senate on June 27, 1995, by the Honourable Senator Forrestall regarding the Federal-Provincial Strategic Highway Improvement Program.

THE BUDGET

INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION PROGRAM— STATUS OF CANADA'S COMMITMENT—GOVERNMENT POSITION— REQUEST FOR CLARIFICATION

(Response to question raised by Hon. John Lynch-Staunton on March 21, 1994)

The Government cannot shed any light on how President Clinton was personally informed of our intention to negotiate an orderly reduction in our involvement in the Space Station or when the President was made aware.

In the lead-up to the 1994 Budget there had been media speculation that Canada might withdraw from the Space Station project. The Minister of Finance made it clear that everything was on the table for consideration in the Government's endeavours to reduce the deficit. Following the United States redesign, which increased Canadian costs, there had been ongoing negotiations with the U.S. on Canada's role in the Space Station and an expectation that these discussions would continue after the Budget.

As acknowledged in the Government's answer to the Senate on March 17, 1994, discussions with the U.S. prior to the Budget addressed the issue of how to best achieve substantial savings in the Space Station Program while retaining a beneficial role for Canada.

U.S. officials met with Canadian officials in Washington on Monday, February 21, the day before the Budget. At this meeting, and in all earlier meetings, Canadian officials carefully observed the Department of Finance's advice on Budget-related negotiations. U.S. officials were not shown the Budget speech relating to the Space Station, dollar figures, or any other Budget-related material not in the public domain. Canadian officials did indicate the Government's intention to contain the costs related to Canada's participation in the Space Station. Those discussions were essential to ensure that Canada secured an appropriate role in the Space Station.